

REMARKS

Claims 4-7, 11-13, 17-22, and 26-29 are presently pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 8-10, 14-16, and 23-25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 4-7, 11-13, 17-22, and 26-19 have been amended. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-7, 11-13, 17-19, and 26-28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 5-7, 11-13, 17-19, and 26-28 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 5-7, 11-13, 17-19, and 26-28.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1, 8, and 14 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 6 of United States Patent Number (USPN) 6,665,337 to Girardeau. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 1, 8, and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the double patenting rejection moot.

35 U.S.C. § 102(a) Rejection

Claims 1, 14, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by USPN 6,167,082 to Ling et al. ("Ling"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 1, 14, and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the § 102(a) rejection moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

Claims 2-4, 8-10, 15, 16, 20-22, 24, 25, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ling in view of USPN 4,905,254 to Bergmans ("Bergmans"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 2, 3, 8-10, 15, 16, 24 and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer rendering the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of these claims moot.

Claims 4, 20-22, and 29 have been amended to depend from allowable independent claims 1, 17, and 26, respectively.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claims 4, 20-22, and 29.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 724-933-3387 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.


Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

s/John F. Kacvinsky/s

John F. Kacvinsky, Reg. No. 40,040
Under 37 CFR 1.34(a)

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Deborah L. Higham 3-30-05
Date

Dated: March 30, 2005

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